

# Rhodora

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## EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

THIS JOURNAL is founded by the NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB, with confidence that it will give new stimulus and render material aid to the study of our local flora. Its publication has not been undertaken without mature consideration, nor until, through the keen and helpful interest of New England botanists, a sufficient subscription list has been secured to assure its monetary support. In the selection of subject-matter, special attention will be given to such plants as are newly recognized or imperfectly known within our limits, to the more precise determination of plant ranges, to brief revisions of groups in which specific and varietal limits require further definition, to corrections upon current manuals and local floras, to altitudinal distribution, plant associations, and ecological problems. For the present, at least, little of our limited space can be devoted to histology or technical physiology. Not only the flowering plants, but the ferns, mosses, and thallophytes will receive their proportionate share of attention, and it is hoped that frequent articles upon the fleshy fungi may respond to an increasing popular interest in this group.

Contributions will be welcomed from anyone interested in the scientific study of the New England flora. A decided preference will be given to articles which embody some newly observed fact, tersely stated. We feel, however, that the power of making such contributions lies within the reach of almost every careful amateur as well as professional botanist. It is unusual to spend a vacation in collecting and identifying plants without finding some which extend known ranges, grow in unusual habitats or at unrecorded altitudes, exhibit exceptional morphological features, or in some other way transgress those laws which scientists have considerately imposed upon them. Such observations, while seldom startling, are usually of scientific value, and surely worthy more permanent record than the customary pencil note upon the margin of some well-thumbed manual.

In such matters as nomenclature, punctuation, capitalization of scientific names, modes of bibliographical citation, etc., contributors will have full power to follow personal preferences, provided their usage is consistent with itself. The editors reserve, however, the right of adding parenthetical synonyms, if such are deemed necessary for ready intelligibility.

The name RHODORA, although the designation of one of our most attractive New England plants, has been chosen, not from sentiment but primarily from a desire to have a distinctive and euphonious one-word title, experience having amply shown that similar titles (e. g. Linnaea, Grevillea, Helios, Erythea, Auk, Ibis, etc.) soon become familiar, and possess great merit in their brevity and ease of citation.

## THE RATTLESNAKE-PLANTAINS OF NEW ENGLAND.

M. L. FERNALD.

(Plate I.)

FOR several years a Rattlesnake-Plantain, common in the White Mountains and other sections of New England, has passed as *Goodyera Menziesii*, a species previously considered typical of the Rocky Mountains and the northwestern Pacific slope, also by exception found on Lake Superior and in Lower Canada. This White Mountain plant was collected at Crawford's by Miss Minns, whose specimens were referred by Dr. Watson, in the sixth edition of Gray's Manual, to that northwestern species. Recently the plant of the White Mountains has been collected in various other parts of New England, even as far south as Connecticut, where it has passed for *Goodyera repens*. The Messrs. Faxon, and others active in the botanical exploration of the White Mountains, have pointed out, however, that this New England plant is really very different from the *Goodyera Menziesii* received from northwestern collectors. Much material has been accumulated, and a critical study has been made, with the hope of determining, if possible, the identity of this doubtful plant.

True *Goodyera Menziesii* is a well-understood species, northwestern specimens having been kindly examined by Mr. Edmund G. Baker, of the British Museum, and pronounced identical with the original plant of Menzies. This species is the largest of our American Goodyeras,